



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: COHEN et al.

Examiner: Louie, Wai Sing

Serial No: 09/502,729

Group Art Unit: 2814

Filed: February 11, 2000

Docket: 728-163 (YOR999-573)

For: **DIFFUSION BARRIER
LAYER AND SEMICONDUCTOR
DEVICE CONTAINING SAME**

Dated: February 3, 2003

Box AF
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

N.E.T
CP Respon
J. Steptoe
02-14-03
M. Brown
1/8/03
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REPLY

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated November 6, 2002, please reconsider the application in light of the following remarks.

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in the application with Claims 1 and 7 being in independent form. In the Final Office Action dated November 6, 2002, Claims 1-6 and 8-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0020919 ("Li et al.") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,235,456 ("Ibok"). Claims 7 and 11-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,228,761 ("Ngo, et al.") in view of Li et al. and Ibok.

Independent Claim 1 recites a "diffusion barrier layer for semiconductor devices, the diffusion barrier layer having an upper surface and a lower surface and a central

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8 (a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postpaid in an envelope, addressed to the: Box AF, Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231, on February 3, 2003.

Dated: February 3, 2003

Carol McAteer
Carol McAteer